



Dear Fellow Arkansan,

In response to concerns of first responders in Arkansas, [I am proud to have introduced legislation](#) to help local police, fire and ambulance services offset costs that are created when their employees are called up for service in the National Guard or Reserves.

Since the onset of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, many communities have seen a number of their police, fire and EMS personnel sent overseas for military service as members of the National Guard or Reserves. Although these individuals forfeit their regular paychecks during their deployment and instead earn their salaries from the military, the costs of their replacements and the overtime pay to existing employees are often above and beyond the level of the deployed employee's salary.

My legislation would create a grant program under the Department of Homeland Security that would directly compensate state and local first responder agencies for any extraordinary financial burden that resulted from the deployment of one or more of their employees.

[Click here to read what first responders from Hot Springs, Fort Smith, Pine Bluff, Beebe, and Fayetteville have to say about my legislation.](#)

The men and women in our National Guard and Reserves stand ready to bravely serve this nation, and our country has increasingly looked to our volunteer reservists and guardsmen to help carry out our military needs. We must be prepared to handle the strain placed on police and fire departments as well as ambulance services whose National Guard employees have been deployed. We cannot allow a community's safety to suffer based on the absence of personnel who have volunteered to protect our nation.

As always, please feel free to [contact me with your comments, suggestions and concerns](#). I look forward to hearing from you.

With Arkansas Pride,

✕

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